

# Dry Basin Phase 2- Treatment

Project ID: 3334

Status: Current

Fiscal Year: 2016

Submitted By: N/A

Total Acres: 2,997

Project Manager: Clint Hill

PM Agency: Utah Department of Agriculture and Food

PM Office: UGIP Northwest Region

Lead: Utah Department of Agriculture and Food

WRI Region: Northern

## Description:

Removal of encroaching junipers and implementing strategic green stripping in order to protect and enhance an important sage grouse leking area.

## Location:

Located in Dry Basin which is approximately 30 miles SW of park Valley, UT. Near the Rosebud field station and the Muddy Ranch.

## PROJECT NEED

### Need For Project:

Project consists of federal, state, and private lands. Funds are needed to complete a project that will protect and improve an important leking area of greater sage grouse. With studies showing that greater than %4 juniper cover causes non-use of habitat by sage grouse, juniper removal is of great importance. Protection of existing sage grouse habitat is of critical importance as this area is the largest lek complex in Box Elder County, and as such needs protection from Juniper encroachment and fire.

### Objectives:

Project will remove approximately 1,868 acres of encroaching juniper. 781 acres which will be done by lop and scatter and 1,087 acres will be done through a bull hog mastication process. The project's overall objective is to enhance and protect greater sage grouse habitat and mule deer winter range.

### Threats / Risks:

Loss of greater sage grouse leking/winter habitat due to encroaching junipers and risk of wildfire.

### Relation To Management Plan:

Other juniper treatments by private landowners have been completed next to this project. Other lands in close proximity have burned and been rehabbed in past years, including both Devil Playground Fires. The West Box Elder CRMP helped develop and supports this project.

Thirteen management plans were referenced. See attachment for complete list.

### Fire / Fuels:

N/A

### Water Quality/Quantity:

N/A

### Compliance:

2 PM Archaeology, Archaeology surevey has been completed and is being finalized now. Achaeology was done as phase one of this project. , Dec 17 2014 / 6 NEPA, BLM is in the process of completing the NEPA for this project. Estimated to be acomplished July, 2015, Dec 17 2014

### Methods:

Lop and scatter treatments of phase one juniper. Bull hog mastication and reseeding of phase 2 and 3 juniper encroachment. Strategic placement of Greenstrips.

### Monitoring:

BLM will monitor bullhog seeding success by using photo points and qualitative measurements. Also permanent transects will be located in the fuel breaks. USU will take vegetation measures to evaluate the success of establishing a fuel break and to quantify establishment of seeded species. Transects will be 30 m long and all measures will be taken along these transects. We will place a 30 m transect for every 1 km of fuel break. We will collect data over a 3 year period. This data will help determine if and when follow up treatments may be required and help determine best management practices for future fuel breaks.

Measures:

3. Frequency of seeded species, perennial grasses, forbs and cheatgrass
4. Above ground biomass (fuels) by functional groups (annual and perennial grasses forbs, and shrubs).

**Partners:**

N/A

**Future Management:**

Monitor establishment of seeding and rehab as necessary, including the use of Plateau to control cheat grass in fuel breaks. Permanent transects will be located in the fuel breaks. USU will take vegetation measures to evaluate the success of establishing a fuel break and to quantify establishment of seeded species. Transects will be 30 m long and all measures will be taken along these transects. We will place a 30 m transect for every 1 km of fuel break. We will collect data over a 3 year period. This data will help determine if and when follow up treatments may be required and help determine best management practices for future fuel breaks.

**Measures:**

1. Frequency of seeded species, perennial grasses, forbs and cheatgrass
2. Above ground biomass (fuels) by functional groups (annual and perennial grasses forbs, and shrubs).

**Domestic Livestock Benefit:**

N/A

BUDGET		WRI/DWR	Other	Budget Total	In-Kind Total	Grand Total	
		\$437,714.00	\$11,200.00	\$448,914.00	\$3,780.00	\$452,694.00	
Item	Description			WRI	Other	In-Kind	Year
Contractual Services	Seed flight for bullhog 1,087 acres @\$11 per acre.			\$11,957.0	\$0.00	\$0.00	2016
Other	Monitoring green strip establishment, (3 years \$5,000/year)			\$15,000.0	\$3,500.00	\$0.00	2016
Contractual Services	Greenstrip disking 170 acres, 2 way, \$55 per acre. BLM Fuels = \$4,000, WRI = \$5,350.			\$9,350.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	2016
Contractual Services	Drill seed and broadcast greenstrips 170 acres, \$45 per acre. BLM Fuels = \$3,000, WRI = \$4,650.			\$7,650.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	2016
Seed (GBRC)	Seed for Bullhog area.			\$59,235.0	\$0.00	\$0.00	2016
Contractual Services	Bullhog 1,087 acres @ \$245 per acre. BLM Fuels = \$181,055, WRI = \$85,260. The contract will be run through the State but BLM will administer the contract.			\$266,315.	\$0.00	\$0.00	2016
Contractual Services	Lop and scatter 781 acres @ \$75 per acre. BLM Fuels = \$40,800, WRI = \$17,775.			\$58,575.0	\$0.00	\$0.00	2016
Seed (GBRC)	Seed for greenstrip, 170 acres.			\$9,632.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	2016
Motor Pool	Vehicle Expenses			\$0.00	\$3,500.00	\$0.00	2016
Personal Services (seasonal employee)	Project flagging, layout, monitoring.			\$0.00	\$4,200.00	\$0.00	2016
Personal Services (permanent employee)	Project layout, design, contract oversight.			\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,780.00	2016
FUNDING		WRI/DWR	Other	Funding Total	In-Kind Total	Grand Total	
		\$449,655.00	\$11,200.00	\$460,855.00	\$3,780.00	\$464,635.00	
Source	Phase	Description		Amount	Other	In-Kind	Year
BLM Fuels (West Desert)	N646			\$40,000.0	\$0.00	\$0.00	2017
BLM Fuels (West Desert)	N646			\$229,655.	\$0.00	\$0.00	2016
BLM Fuels (West Desert)	N/A	N/A		\$0.00	\$11,200.0	\$3,780.00	2016
PLPCO sage-grouse	N616	N/A		\$30,000.0	\$0.00	\$0.00	2016

Source	Phase	Description	Amount	Other	In-Kind	Year
FFSL (pre-suppression)	N565	N/A	\$100,000.	\$0.00	\$0.00	2016
Ruby Pipeline Mitigation (big game)	N541	N/A	\$50,000.0	\$0.00	\$0.00	2016

EXPENSE	WRI/DWR	Other	Expense Total	In-Kind Total	Grand Total
	\$357,995.25	\$0.00	\$357,995.25	\$0.00	\$357,995.25

Source	Phase	Description	Amount	Other	In-Kind	Year
BLM Fuels (West Desert)	N646	N/A	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
BLM Fuels (West Desert)	N646		\$177,995.	\$0.00	\$0.00	2016
BLM Fuels (West Desert)	N/A	N/A	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
PLPCO sage-grouse	N616		\$30,000.0	\$0.00	\$0.00	2016
FFSL (pre-suppression)	N565		\$100,000.	\$0.00	\$0.00	2016
Ruby Pipeline Mitigation (big game)	N541		\$50,000.0	\$0.00	\$0.00	2016

SPECIES		
Species	"N" Rank	HIG/F Rank
Mule Deer		1
Threat		Impact
No Threat		NA
Greater Sage-grouse	N3	1
Threat		Impact
No Threat		NA

## HABITATS

PROJECT COMMENTS			
Comment	12/17/2014	Type: Project	Commenter N/A
All equipment will be provided by the private landowners and contractors hired.			
Comment	01/28/2015	Type: Project	Commenter Alan Clark
About how many miles of green stripping do you estimate will be done?			
Comment	01/29/2015	Type: Project	Commenter Clinton Hill
There will be almost 13 miles. I think the actually length is 12.6 miles.			
Comment	12/22/2014	Type: Financial	Commenter N/A
BLM said they had some money to go towards this project. Brad Jessop will be tweaking the budget accordingly.			

## COMPLETION

**Start Date:**

10/16/2015

**End Date:**

02/10/2016

**FY Implemented:**

2016

**FY Completed:**

2016

**Final Methods:**

Wilkinson Construction out of Morgan, Utah was awarded the bullhog contract for \$219/ac which was below the estimated \$245/ac. They partnered with Retroscape (Smithfield, Utah) to accomplish the work. Restroscape used 2 rubber tire tractors (1, Barko 930 and 1, Geoboy) with Fecon style mulching heads. They also had a Fecon skidsteer for a while but determined it was too slow to accomplish much work. A total of 1,065 acres were treated plus an additional 15 acres that were added on Private lands to the north to facilitate the greenstrip. Adjacent to the bullhog treatment, 781 acres of low density juniper were lopped and scattered by Summitt Forests, Inc. between November 4 -14, 2015. Greenstrip implementation began on BLM lands with a chainharrow on December 1, 2015. Work continued through December 18 but was then delayed until spring for various reasons. In March the chainharrow work resumed on BLM. Once the harrow work was completed the BLM sprayed Plateau herbicide on the greenstrip area to prevent cheatgrass invasion.

**Project Narrative:**

To be done at a later time.

**Future Management:**

This area will be managed as sagebrush habitat in the long term. The treatment area will be maintained over time by thinning juniper regrowth. Grazing will not occur for two growing seasons following treatment. Vegetation response will be monitored for at least 5 years post-treatment. Noxious weeds will be identified and treated as necessary. User created OHV routes will be signed/closed to protect soils and vegetation. The fuel break will be monitored annually to determine success of the seeding and track cheatgrass invasion. Follow up treatments (herbicide/seeding) will occur if needed to maintain the functionality of the greenstrip.

## Map Features

ID	Feature Category	Action	Treatment/Type
2937	Terrestrial Treatment Area	Vegetation removal / hand crew	Lop and scatter
2938	Terrestrial Treatment Area	Seeding (primary)	Broadcast (aerial-helicopter)
2939	Terrestrial Treatment Area	Bullhog	Full size
3031	Terrestrial Treatment Area	Greenstripping	Greenstripping

